

No. 7

October, 1981

# Food Stamp Token Types and Reverses



## PART II: SPANISH-LANGUAGE TOKENS PARTE II: FICHAS DEL IDIOMA ESPAÑOL

In the July issue, a number of token types were shown bearing english-language reverses and obverses, the bulk of them were made by the Personalized Plastics Company through a heat-impression process. This article continues the discussion of token types and focusses on those with spanish legends. Nearly all of the ones shown here were issued by stores in Puerto Rico and so this review will be of most interest to collectors of that island's exonomia. There were, however, some pieces used on the mainland that bear spanish reverses mainly issued by stores in Chicago, and there are undoubtedly others.

Two major reverse legend types exist in this series, each with varieties and are as follows:

1. "PROGRAMA DE ALIMENTOS / 1¢ / PARA ALIMENTOS AUTORIZADOS"  
(tr: Food Program / 1¢ / For Authorized Foods)
2. "PROGRAMA DE CUPONES / 1¢ / PARA ALIMENTOS AUTORIZADOS"  
(tr: Coupon Program / 1¢ / For Authorized Foods)

Because most readers are non-Spanish-speaking, a language lesson is also in order. Many Puerto Rican tokens make ample use of the two languages, so that a lot of obverse legends are readily understandable.

There are however, some words that are used often and may not be "well known". One of those is the word "COLMADO" (coal-MAH-tho) which is a mainly Puerto Rican word for grocery store. A "CARNICERIA" (car-knee-say-REE-ah) is a meat market, and a "SUPERMERCADO" (sue-pair-mair-CAH-tho) is a supermarket. In Spanish, as with other Latin-based languages, the adjective follows the noun so that legends will read "COLMADO SANTOS" (Santos Grocery Store) or "CARNICERIAS LA VICTORIA" (The Victory meat markets).

### 28 mm Tokens

In this size category all token styles shown were definitely made by the Personalized Plastics Company. Plastic and legend color and denomination combinations are the same as with English tokens, that is 1¢-black, 5¢-green, 10¢-blue, 25¢-red, and 50¢-pink. Where other combinations are known, I have listed them. A survey of 1000 different mainland and Puerto Rican tokens with Spanish reverses yielded some percentages of the prevalence of each style. Keep in mind that these are only very rough approximates. Spanish equivalent paragraph headings are given below for the use of Spanish-speaking readers.

#### Small "Alimentos"/"Alimentos" Pequeña



Carolina PR

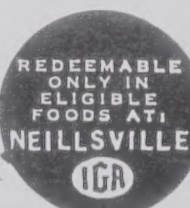
Cavey PR

Fajardo PR

Río Piedras PR

Río Piedras PR

The major characteristics of this type are the 26.5 mm diameter legend and 1.25 mm tall letters. Otherwise it is no different from the "large" variety shown next. Of the 1000 tokens mentioned, only 7.4 percent had this reverse, although it is really not that scarce. It is probably the earliest Spanish variety and I believe that it is contemporary with the SLSN English variety mentioned in July and issued about 1975. In general, the Spanish reverses are about three years younger than the LLRN and SLRN English varieties. The microscopic size of the letters in this "small" variety encouraged an early abandonment of its use.



Neillsville WI

**38mm TOKENS  
NOT  
PERSONALIZED  
PLASTICS**

**(see story p. 5)**



Large "Alimentos" / "Alimentos" Grande



Chicago IL

Chicago IL

Caguas PR

Monte Santo PR

Ponce PR

This was the most commonly used spanish reverse and was found on nearly half of the tokens surveyed (49.5 percent). I think that it was contemporary with the LLSN english pieces as were the "Cupones" varieties below. The legend diameter is 26.5 mm and the letters are 2 mm tall, much easier to read. This variety was the one used in the Chicago area. The following "Cupones" legends were probably substituted because of the redundancy of the word "Alimentos" in these two varieties. The designs shown below made clearer the fact that the program was a "food coupon" program, not just a "food" program.

"Cupones" - Single Circle / "Cupones" Con Circulo Solo



This reverse design is similar in every respect to that of the large "alimentos" reverse except that the word "Cupones" has been substituted for the upper curved line word "Alimentos". The legend diameter and letter height are the same. There is also only one circle around the denomination. In addition to the standard denomination/legend color/plastic color combinations I know of the following and there may be others:

DENOMINATION

LEGEND COLOR

PLASTIC COLOR

1¢  
5¢  
5¢  
10¢  
10¢

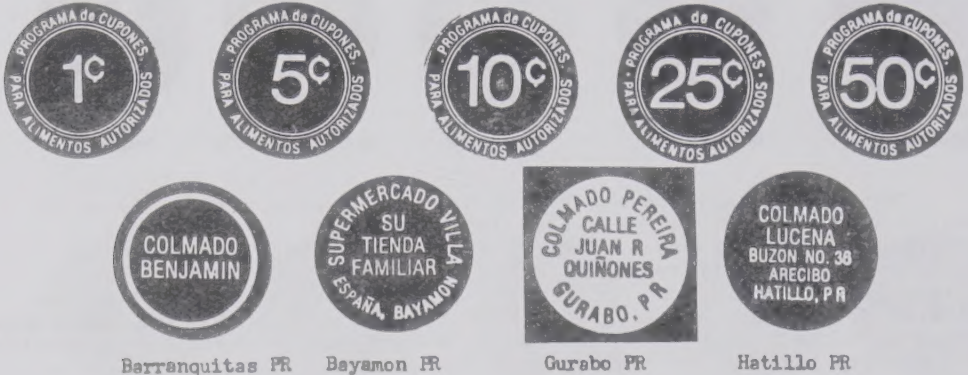
Black  
Black  
Black  
Black  
Black

Pink  
Pink  
Yellow  
Red  
White

25¢	Black	Green
25¢	Black	Red
25¢	Black	White
50¢	Black	Blue
50¢	Black	White
50¢	White	Yellow

A possible explanation for the variations in color/numeral combinations is that storekeepers may have begun to insist on tokens that would avoid confusion of their tokens with those of other shops.

"Cupones" - Double Circle/ "Cupones" Con Circulo Doblado



Berranquitas PR

Bayamon PR

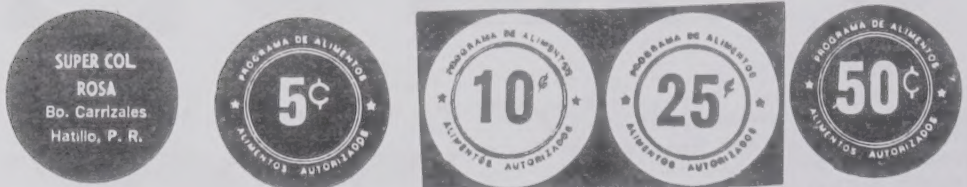
Guayabo PR

Hatillo PR

Identical in every way to the "Cupones" single circle reverses, this reverse has two concentric circles around the denomination instead of one. Only 4.2 percent of the 1000 tokens used this design. The following color/denomination combinations were also used:

<u>DENOMINATION</u>	<u>LEGEND COLOR</u>	<u>PLASTIC COLOR</u>
1¢	Black	Pink
5¢	Black	Red
25¢	Black	Yellow
50¢	Black	White
50¢	Black	Yellow

32 mm Tokens



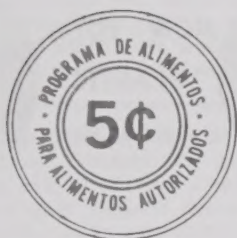
This series is similar in many respects to the 32 mm english-language tokens shown in the last issue. The thickness of the token blank is about 2.5 mm and the plastic is glossy. Edges tend to be rounded rather than square-cut. While their similarity is great, I have no solid evidence that they were PP-made. There were only six different pieces in my survey of this type.



The reverse legend is similar to the 28 mm "Alimentos" varieties except that the word "Para" has been deleted. The legend is 26 mm in diameter and the letters are 1.25 mm tall. Color/numeral combinations known to me are as follows:

<u>DENOMINATION</u>	<u>LEGEND COLOR</u>	<u>PLASTIC COLOR</u>
5c	White	Blue
10c	Gold	White
25c	Black	White
25c	Gold	Yellow
50c	Gold	Blue
50c	White	Red

42 mm Tokens



Hato Rey PR

Even though the legend is an "Alimentos" variety, these tokens are probably not PP-made. The blanks have a plain, but raised rim in contrast to all of the others. The legend is 31.5 mm in diameter and the letters are 3 mm tall. It is a type I have seen used widely by mainland cocktail lounges between 1970 and 1980. There were only two of this type in the 1000, although there are several other 42 mm, raised rim pieces without this legend.

<u>DENOMINATION</u>	<u>LEGEND COLOR</u>	<u>PLASTIC COLOR</u>
5c	Black	Blue
25c	Black	Green

(Typing courtesy of Suzanne Costello, S.F., Cal.)

(to be continued . . . .)

## 38mm Tokens



Lamar SC

In the July issue I described several english language tokens including 38mm pieces. These were thought to be from the PFCo. A note from Neil Shafer and a xeroxed order form (p.6) from Glen Parham, Jr., of Atlanta, indicate that Tropical Lab was the maker. Glen also sent samples of other types of reverses made by the same company. One has a curved reverse legend, another is like that on p. 2, with lower case legend. The order form shows a reverse with all capital letters. There are also some obverses without the stock legend (see photo). The one shown is of the flexible plastic variety. This gives at least three reverse varieties.

# TROPICAL LAB & MFG.

P. O. Box 223

Onalaska, Wisconsin 54650

## PLANT LOCATION

727 Rose Street  
La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601  
Phone (608) 782-0810

FIRM \_\_\_\_\_ PURCHASE ORDER # \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

—PROFITABLE FOR YOUR BUSINESS—

## Food Stamp Spenders To Get Change Tokens

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Agriculture Department plans to eliminate the practice of allowing food stamp spenders to take up to 49 cents change in cash when they shop for groceries.

The year-old practice was criticized in a congressional report that said it "threatens the success of the food stamp program."

Under new rules that will take effect March 1, food stamp spenders will get small-denomination tokens or store credit slips in change when they cash in food stamps for groceries. Also, they will be permitted to pay for bottle deposits with stamps and redeem the bottles for cash.

Agriculture Department spokesmen say investigations of the cash-change practice have revealed very limited violations. But conceivably, food stamp users could make several small purchases with coupons and collect enough cash in change to buy cigarettes, beer, soap, toilet paper or other items not available under the food stamp program.

Minimum Order is 500 Tokens at \$20.00

Basic Order is 1,000 Tokens at \$35.00

2,000 Tokens at \$31.00 per thousand

5,000 Tokens at \$29.00 per thousand

10,000 Tokens at \$27.00 per thousand

25,000 Tokens at \$25.00 per thousand

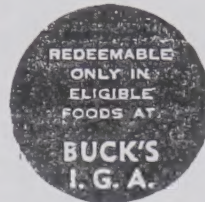
Write for special quote on quantities above 25,000

**WE ALSO MAKE TOKENS FOR  
ANY TYPE OF BUSINESS**

☐ CHECK ENCLOSED, SHIP PREPAID

☐ SHIP C. O. D. I'LL PAY CHARGES

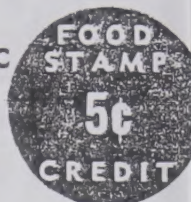
Authorized by \_\_\_\_\_



NON - TOXIC

PLASTIC

Actual Size



"THESE WORDS MUST APPEAR"  
"REDEEMABLE ONLY IN ELIGIBLE FOODS AT"  
AND YOUR STORE NAME

must appear on one side  
these tokens comply with the  
U. S. Department of Agriculture  
Food Stamp Program Regulations

1¢

5¢

Qty. .... White Qty. .... Orange

10¢

25¢

Qty. .... Yellow Qty. .... Black

PLEASE PRINT, TYPE

STORE NAME \_\_\_\_\_

... FIRST ORDER

... REORDER



## MAVERICKS EDITOR APPOINTED

Alon Jeffrey has volunteered to accept unidentified tokens for attribution. Each of them will be published eventually in the newsletter and hopefully you readers can help out in their identification. Please send your tokens to Alon Jeffrey, 366 Belm Drive, Grayslake, IL 60030. Enclose an 18¢ stamped, self-addressed envelope to make sure you get your tokens back. You may instead send a DARK XEROX photocopy. Faded or spotted copies will not do. Remember to copy the reverses or mention their types like ILSN, SLRN, Large "Alimentos", etc. Mention the locality where you or another collector got them. Please send FOOD STAMP TOKENS OR SCRIP ONLY! Or else ones that you think are related. Others should be sent to the TAM'S JOURNAL Mavericks Editor c/o Lewis Ferguson (see subscriber addresses).

The FOOD STAMP CHANGE NEWSLETTER is Edited and Published by Jerry F. Schimmel in July, October, January and April. For the year 1981-82 the subscription is \$4.50. Late subscribers receive all back issues. All subscribers can submit one free 30 word ad each issue and which must be resubmitted each time. Full-page ads are \$8.50, half-page ads are \$4.50, quarter page ads are \$3.00. Copy must be submitted by June 15, Sept. 15, Dec. 15 and March 15. Full-page material must be no larger than 11x7 1/4 inches. Newsletters are mailed before the Tenth of the following month.

## MORE 1939-43

Alon has also been doing a creditable job of locating pieces from the earliest period. Here are three:

- ∴ Octagonal brass, 25mm.  
O: SATLER'S/ORANGE/FOOD/STAMP DUE BILL  
R: WORTH/5¢/ON ANY FOOD/STAMP PURCHASE
- ∴ Round aluminum, 20mm.  
O: SCHAEFFER MARKETS/ORANGE/  
BELLEVILLE/ILL.  
R: GOOD FOR/5¢/IN MERCHANDISE
- ∴ Round aluminum, 20mm.  
O & R: (same, but value is:) 10¢

The first is known only as TAM'S JOURNAL Maverick #3548. The second two are listed in TRADE TOKENS OF ILLINOIS, by Ore H. Vacketta as Belleville #32-5 and #32-10. They are Rarity Two (R-2), or 30-50 known. Any others?

## C.R. CLARK

I also received a letter from C.R. Clark in August, the author of FLORIDA TRADE TOKENS (see his ad elsewhere). I purchased a copy of this hardbound book which I feel is an outstanding example of the token cataloguer's art. There are a large number of Food Stamp Change Token entries and a sizeable section on the background of FSC tokens and their types. His letter is longer than I could use for this issue, but is one I will use later. He also sent samples of a 38mm token which is different than that of the Tropical Lab. However, for those interested in how many tokens come in any given set he states:

"The earliest (PP) tokens ... (are) as you stated, they are "most scarce." When these tokens were in use, no 50¢ tokens were needed because the government was using 50¢ Food Stamps."

According to Neil Shafer in the BANK NOTE REPORTER (Aug. 1975) the first larger denomination Food Coupon booklets were issued in 1973; presumably without 50¢ stamps. It seems likely that between 1973 and 1975 tokens and scrip valued at 50¢ became necessary. Hence the emergence of the five-piece sets.

## CLUB RESPONSE

Development of a Food Stamp Change Organization did not draw a strong response from the last newsletter. What it takes usually is one person to kick off the effort by appealing for members and making a wide range of direct contacts by phone or mail. There is an awful lot of business work which sometimes feels unrewarded, but greater benefits can come from an organized group. Let's keep the subject open for discussion.

## NEXT ISSUE

There is no doubt that the paper scrip collectors are being neglected. To make up for that the next issue will be dedicated solely to paper and cardboard issues. Let me hear from you about what you would like to see.

# FOOD STAMP CHANGE TOKENS & SCRIP

LOVE 'EM OR HATE 'EM, THEY'RE HOT ITEMS TODAY!

Remember when Civil War tokens sold for 25¢ each? Remember when a \$10 transit token sold for just that? Food Stamp Tokens and Paper Scrip will never be cheaper than they are right now.

We have available a retail list of about 2500 different sets from virtually all the states and United States territories and possessions. Send one dollar (refundable with any order) now for that list! Food Stamp Scrip is available also. WE BUY TOO! Let us know what you have for sale.

Our newly revised and expanded reference list features some 800 titles covering tokens, medals, coins, paper money and other collectibles such as postcards and antique guns. Send \$1 for that list as well also refundable with any order). Wants lists are serviced.

NOW AVAILABLE! A new group of Food Stamp Change Tokens never before offered. Let us send you one of each set available from your state on approval. Wholesale discount for the entire state.

Our next auction will include many items of popular interest. Send \$1.50 and receive the auction catalog and the prices realized, all by First Class mail. Catalogs will be sent only to First Class subscribers in the future: five sales for five dollars.

## A WHOLESALE LISTING

100 Different Food Stamp Tokens of different merchants, of plastic, aluminum, wood and from different makers (no full sets included)	\$30.00
500 Different tokens as above, but includes some complete sets from various states	125.00
1000 Different as above	250.00
2000 Different as above	500.00
100 Assorted Tokens	17.50
1000 Assorted Tokens	150.00
5000 Assorted Tokens	650.00
100 Different Food Stamp Scrip, all paper	15.00
200 Different as above	25.00
1000 Assorted Scrip	75.00

Samples of tokens and scrip free for 28¢ SASE!

All orders postpaid to street address (for U.P.S. delivery).

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